

**Minutes of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission
Department of Corrections Headquarters, Building 1
504 Mayflower, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
March 19, 2015
1:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Honorable Charles Ballay at 1:07 p.m.

Members Present

Honorable Charles Ballay (proxy for Honorable Ricky Babin, Chairman)
Honorable Charles Ballay
Honorable Mike Cazes

Honorable Michael McDonald (proxy for Honorable Louis Daniel)
Mr. James Dixon
Honorable Hans Lilgeberg (proxy for Honorable Greg Guidry) (by phone)
Ms. Debbie Hudnall (by phone)
Mr. Joseph Baiamonte (proxy for Mr. Cheney Joseph)
Honorable Robert Kostelka (by phone)
Secretary James LeBlanc
Honorable Terry Landry (proxy for Honorable Joseph Lopinto)
Dr. Cecil Guin
Honorable Michael McDonald
Mr. Carle Jackson
Honorable Laurie White

Committee and Advisory Members

Darryl Campbell, DOC

Gayle Cothell, DOC
Frank DiFulco, LASC (phone)
Jennifer Eagan, LASC
Tammy Jetson, DOC
Sonia Joseph, DOC

Tracy Rathburn, DOC
Jennifer Watson, LCLE

Guests

Linda Lala Duscoe, CURE

Stephanie Gaskill, CURE
Ashanti Witherspoon, Society of Student Leaders

I. Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Charles Ballay

Mr. Carle Jackson welcomed Honorable Troy Brown

II. Approval of Minutes

Honorable Charles Ballay

Motion by Honorable Michael McDonald. Seconded by Mr. James Dixon. No objections.

III. Reports of Committees

Honorable Charles Ballay

A. Release Mechanisms and Re-Entry Committee

1. Release Mechanisms - Ms. Sonya Jackson

A white paper was presented regarding tax incentives for hiring disadvantaged people, including ex-offenders.

2. Re-entry - Jennifer Eagan

Representative Joseph Lopinto has agreed to author a bill that will change the language of statute R.S. 13:5401 adding a paragraph to give judges greater direction in revocations, probation and administrative sanctions used, as well as discretion used to assess cost to offender through the reentry court program for risk assessment and any other type of substance abuse/rehabilitation programs. It will change the definition of technical violations. Plaquemines parish will participate.

B. Research and Technology

Mr. Frank DiFulco

No report

IV. Collateral Consequences

Carle Jackson

Louisiana has a large number of collateral consequences of conviction. While such consequences are not typically considered as part of a criminal sentence, they are a direct consequence of conviction and are often more onerous than the criminal sanction imposed. Most of these consequences apply to all felonies, or to broad classifications of felonies, and remain in effect for the lifetime of the defendant. Many of these severely limit the ability of a former offender to obtain a job, thus directly impacting his ability to successfully reenter the work force. As there is no appeal from or review of the collateral consequences, therefore, these provisions, while perhaps useful, create issues for successful reentry. Perhaps the Commission through the Reentry Committee could consider the collateral consequences of conviction from several perspectives:

- *Does the prohibition have a logical nexus to the offenses*
- *Does the prohibition appear to serve a substantial public interest*
- *Should such prohibitions apply for life or be subject to review and possible modification or relief from a competent authority such as the Court or Parole Committee*
- *Is there any empirical data supporting the prohibition*

The Reentry Committee accepted the task of examining the Collateral Consequences of Conviction. .

V. Planning 2015 Term: Issues for consideration

- A. New Issues for Release Mechanisms and Re-Entry- Explore evidence based programs for the transition from prison to free world, such as the use of Job coaches to improve employment performance.
- B. New Issues for Juvenile Committee- Improvement in the data available to the Court and other system stakeholders to improve the delivery of services to juveniles..
- C. New Issues for Research and Technology Committee
- D. New Issues for Frontend Committee- criminal sanctions for punishing or to protect the public. If criminal sanctions are used to punish and prevent, you could look up everybody like they do in Alabama.

VI. Other Business

None

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission will be June 18th, 2015

VIII. Adjourn Mr. Carle Jackson motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Honorable Laurie White. No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.